02301

1968/11/04

November 4, 1968

The object of the exercise was to nullify the political impact of the President's decision by making it dubious. They think that goal has been achieved. They think the political effect of the bombing halt has been reduced by 25% - 33%.

The damage was done via Thieu in Saigon, through low level Americans.

They think the damage has been done.

Thieu, in their judgment, will continue on his present line until it becomes impossible.

Mitchell's strategy is for Nixon now to be a statesman. He can't do any more mischief politically at home, although his troops will continue to use the line here. He regards any further steps by him as counter-productive.

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